

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: DURET et al

Serial No.:

Filed: March 19, 2002

For: Method And Device For Neutralizing, By Controlled Gas Injection, The Formation of Liquid Slugs At The Foot Of A Riser Connected To A Multiple Fluid Transport Pipe

Group:

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 19, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of this application and prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said injected volume of gas is modulated by a quantity proportional to the flow rate variation of the liquid phase of the circulating fluids.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, measured at a previous time interval, is injected at a time t.

7. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 5, comprising means for measuring the